

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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R 082356Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8706

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5717

USIAC

FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - ANZUS COMMUNIQUE

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD IN SATURDAY LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED  
QTE RED SAILS IN THE SOUTH SEAS? ENDQTE DREW UPON ANZUS  
COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT CONCLUSION OF COUNCIL MEETING EARLIER  
IN WEEK TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON NEED FOR GREATER ATTENTION  
TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT ISLAND NATIONS OF SOUTH PACIFIC.  
NOTING COUNCIL QTE SPENT SOME TIME ON PROBLEMS  
OF SOUTH PACIFIC AND INNERQTE NOTED THE GENERAL INCREASE  
IN EXTERNAL AWARENESS OF THE REGION ENDINNERQTE ENDQTE, EDIT  
COMMENTED ON THIS GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE REGION IN VIEW OF  
QTE RUSSIAN BUILDUP IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND ENDQTE  
CITED DEPSEC ROBINSON'S COMMENT THAT QTE RUSSIAN INITIATIVES  
IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC COULD BE CONSIDERED A POTENTIALLY  
SERIOUS LONG-TERM THREAT. IF SOVIET UNION KEPT EXPENDING  
ITS INFLUENCE IN REGION IT COULD POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO  
STABILITY ENDQTE. HOWEVER, PAPER NOTED DEPSEC STRUCK  
QTE SOMEWHAT LOWER NOTE ENDQTE THAN ANZU HPARTNERS ON  
THIS SCORE.

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ONE OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OF COUNCIL MEETING QTE

APPEAR TO SUGGEST THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE  
SUCCEEDED IN GETTING US TO TURN ITS EYES FROM ITS PRE-  
OCCUPATION WITH RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN PACIFIC  
REGION TO LOOK AT WHAT RUSSIA IS DOING AND AIMING TO DO  
IN SOUTH PACIFIC ENDQTE EDIT SPECULATED SOVIET INTENTIONS  
IN AREA ARE TO GET FOOTHOLD W TONGA WITH FISHING AND  
MOORING RIGHTS, PROGRESSIVELY SEEKING OTHER FACILITIES WHICH  
WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD TO MILITARY PRESENCE. SUGGESTED AID  
AND TRADE TO COUNTER QTE RUSSIAN PEACEFUL PENETRATION ENDQTE  
EDIT CONCLUDED QTE...SOUTH PACIFIC OFFERS BOTH CHALLENGE  
AND OPPORTUNITY (TO AUSTRALIA). OPPORTUNITY TO WIN LEADERSHIP  
OF GROUP OF FREE STATES WELL DISPOSED TO THIS COUNTRY AND  
LINKED TO IT BY GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND COMMON STRATEGIC  
INTERESTS -- REMAING.

CHALLENGE -- TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITIES INHERENT IN  
GRASPING OPPODRTUNITIES -- IS NOW ACCENTUATED AND GIVEN  
NEW URGENCY BY LENGHTENING SHADOW OF RUSSIA (AND INDEED  
OF COMMERCIALY EXPANSIVE JAPAN) OVER THE REGION ENDQTE  
USINFO.

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